

Rep. Slaughter has supported every American's right to accessible, affordable, high quality health care. HR 3162, the CHAMP Act makes important and necessary strides to ensure this right for all Americans, particularly children and seniors. This bill reauthorizes the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) for 6 million children and provides 5 million more low income children with health coverage. The CHAMP Act maintains current SCHIP eligibility laws at the same time giving states the tools to reach the millions of uninsured children who are eligible, but not enrolled in the program. Additionally, it offers coverage to pregnant women. In addition to expanding SCHIP, the bill makes improvements for Medicare beneficiaries. Instead of subsidizing HMOs as they enjoy record profits, this legislation will curb overpayments to Medicare Advantage plans, thereby benefiting Medicare beneficiaries by reducing costs and premiums and improving Medicare's long-term fiscal sustainability. The bill also ensures seniors continue to have access to the doctors of their choice by stopping a 10 percent Medicare payment cut to doctors and instead providing a 2-year increase in reimbursement rates. Finally, it reduces co-payments for mental health services and encourages seniors to seek preventive health benefits by eliminating co-payments and deductibles. Rep. Slaughter supported the CHAMP Act when it passed in the House of Representatives by a vote of 225-204 on August 1st 2007.